

Serial No.: 10/065,282
Attorney Docket No.: F-522

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-8 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer and added new claims 9-20. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-20 will remain pending in the application.

2. Objections to Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants have submitted an E-IDS in accordance with USPTO procedures and a form 1449 is not required.

3. Rejections under 35 USC § 102(e)

In section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,681,045 B1 to Lapstun, et al. ("Lapstun '045").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 4 and the rejection is moot.

Regarding claims 3-4, Applicants respectfully submit that the rf-id tag is not inherent in the cited reference.

Regarding claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that Lapstun '045 does not teach or suggest storing biometric metadata on the document.

For example, the cited reference does not teach or suggest "a metadata storage device attached to the document."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 1-8.

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Applicants have added new claims 9-20 and submit that the new claims are patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and submit that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-20 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

4. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

5. Authorization

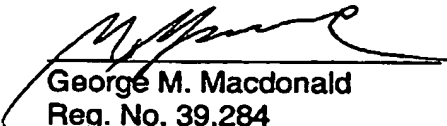
No fee is believed due with this Amendment other than that associated with the enclosed petition for extension of time to respond. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-522.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-522.

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Respectfully submitted,



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